EPA's Office of Environmental Justice
Stakeholder Call on Upcoming Administrative Changes

Briefing details

- When: Tuesday, September 26
- Time: 3:30 PM (EDT)
- 3500 WJC North
- Participant Dial-in Number: (b) (6) (Calls are operator-monitored).

Speakers

- Introduction – Matthew Tejada, Director (Office of Environmental Justice)
- Briefing – Samantha Dravis, Associate Administrator (Office of Policy)
- Stakeholder Q&A – Led by Matt

Participants

OEJ holds stakeholder calls a few times each year. In 2016, we hosted a stakeholder call for the release of the Agency's environmental justice strategy, meetings and informational sessions with the NEJAC, and teleconferences hosted by the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (EJ IWG). These calls can range from a few dozen individuals to a few hundred participants, with representatives from state, local and federal government, tribal nations, civil society and academia, community-based organizations and non-profits as well as business and industry. A sample of participants from a recent call is attached.

Attachments

- Samantha Dravis Talking Points
- Sample Participant List

Talking Points for Samantha Dravis

(Introductory remarks from Matt Tejada)

Thank you everyone for joining this call. We wanted to connect with you to share the news regarding the move of EPA's Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) to the Office of Policy (OP) within the Office of the Administrator.

I appreciate the close bond that the EJ movement and many communities and leaders feel for the EJ program. I know that many of you share credit for helping to establish an EJ program and focus at EPA and across the federal government. Because of that, we wanted to make sure that lines of communication are open during this time of transition.

It is important to both Administrator Pruitt and myself that the most underserved and overburdened communities have a meaningful say in environmental protection and regulation. I want to assure everyone that this move is being made so that EPA's EJ program can best pursue its mission to serve overburdened communities.

OP provides strong analysis and support for some of EPA's most important responsibilities. One of those is managing the agency's regulatory process. Let me be clear - EPA will continue to consider and incorporate environmental justice concerns into our regulatory process and this move enhances our ability to achieve this core function.

Through the Office of Sustainable Communities, soon to be renamed the Office of Community Revitalization, OP also provides technical assistance to help communities as they work to improve health, protect the environment, and grow their economies. We will continue to work on the ground alongside community leaders to understand their challenges and needs.

And so by bringing together the collective resources and expertise of this organization and OEJ within the Office of Policy, each as independent offices, we will be better positioned to help those communities that need our assistance the most.

We will provide a more comprehensive understanding of community needs and health disparities. That will allow us to better coordinate across our own programs and with our federal partners to ensure efforts are aligned and community needs are fully reflected in our actions and investments.

It will also enable us to partner more effectively with states, tribes and local governments to support their efforts to engage with and answer the needs of their most vulnerable communities.

And finally, it will allow us to collaborate more successfully with business and industry, academia, civil society and other stakeholders that share an interest in building strong, healthy and prosperous communities.

Because we are located in the Administrator's office and have cross-agency responsibilities, OEJ's new position within OP will also enable better support for meaningful engagement and public participation on policy and regulatory decisions.

Finally, it will allow quicker elevation of issues to the Administrator and direct support for his leadership role on the Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice.

I firmly believe bringing OEJ into OP will enhance EPA's ability to meet our mission of protecting human health and the environment.

I look forward to working with all of you to advance shared goals for America's most vulnerable, underserved and overburdened communities.

(Questions from Stakeholders – Fielded by Matt Tejada)

Sample Participant List

National Environmental Justice Advisory Council
April 26 -27, 2017
Teleconference Meeting Attendees

Media

David Reynolds, Inside EPA newsletter

NGOs

Huda Alkaff Wisconsin, Green Muslims
Claudia Barragan, DC Sierra Club EJ committee
Kimberly Carpenter, Metro Blooms
Michael Grossman, Stand Up for Kids
Chet Kibble Sr, Inform The People
Na'Taki Osborne Jelks, West Atlanta Watershed Alliance
Quindaro Ruins / Underground Railroad- Exercise 2017
J. Smith, NAACP, Houston Branch
Jamel Thompson, Urban Detox Universal
Dana Wynn, Student Organization for Sustainability (SOS)
Ben Passer, Fresh Energy

Business

Venu Ghanta, Duke Energy
Stacey Mihallik, Caterpillar Inc.
Monica Wright, CH2M

Government

Felicia Beltran, ADOT
Juliet Bochicchio, DOE/General Counsel
Craig Arquette, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
Patience Caso, Hennepin County Environment and Energy
Denise Freeman, U.S. Dept. of Energy
Jolene Keplin, Turtle Mountain band of Chippewsa Tribal Health
Cassandra Meyer, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Simeon Matthews, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
Millie Piazza, Dept. of Ecology
Sarah Rice, NCDEQ

Gina Shirey, State of Alaska/Department of Environmental Conservation
Matthew Taylor, TDEC
Katherine Teiken, Minnesota Housing
Zelma Maine-Jackson, WA. St. Dept of Ecology

<u>Academia</u>
Mary McGillicuddy, ASPPH
Maya Carrasquillo, University of South Florida
Marie Donahue, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities Institute on the Environment
Jill Harrison, University of Colorado-Boulder
Rachel Merriman-Goldring, William & Mary (Student)
James Schaefer, Marquette University